

SOVIET PAPER INDUSTRY

The paper industry in the USSR consists of 6 major combines and a large number of smaller plants. Soviet production of paper in 1958 was about 16 percent of US production, and cardboard production was less than 1 percent.

In spite of vast forest resources, the Soviet paper industry has been deficient in meeting the growing needs for paper and paper products. The low priority granted the industry has kept the level of technology low. Management of the industry is poor and production methods obsolete. US specialists who visited some of the more advanced Soviet paper manufacturing installations consider the Soviet paper industry to be 5 to 10 years behind that of the US and Canada in the production of paper and in paper research. Both the quantity and quality of Soviet paper production remain low.

The majority of Soviet paper plants are located in the Northwest, Central, and Ural regions; there is another concentration of plants in the Soviet Far East. Since World War II, paper plants have been constructed in the Urals, and additional plants are to be built in West Siberia.

The Soviet paper industry has increased its production as shown in the following tabulation (in thousand metric tons):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Paper</u>	<u>Cardboard</u>
1940	812	151
1950	1,193	292
1951	1,342	334
1952	1,461	384
1953	1,612	443
1954	1,769	499
1955	1,862	543
1956	1,993	630
1957	2,126	740
1958	2,200	700
1960*	2,722	n.a.
1965*	3,500	2,800

*Planned

Of the total production of paper, about 20 percent is newsprint, 20 percent printing and writing paper, and 30 percent wrapping and packing paper.

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Despite Soviet efforts to increase the availability of paper, serious deficiencies in many categories will continue for a long time. Shortages will remain especially apparent in the retail industries where packaging is very crude. For example, food packaging and the wrapping of other consumer goods is virtually unknown in the USSR. Paper for textbooks and school supplies probably will continue to be supplied before most other needs are met.

Soviet trade in paper and paper products is negligible. In 1957, the USSR imported 85,000 metric tons of paper and exported about the same amount. There has been some increase in the export of wood cellulose, of which the USSR is a net exporter.

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